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Feeding the bugs
Hikers take in the views from Howland Junction railway trestle bridge, overlooking Kendrick's Creek. /ADAM FRISK Special to the *Times*

Minden Pride enters new era of change

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

A rebrand, a shift, a change, a transformation,

That's the journey Minden Pride is currently on.

Actually, Minden Pride is now a thing of the past. The not-for-profit, volunteer-run organization has now officially renamed themselves Pride in the Highlands; a decision formalized during their Town Hall meeting on May 10. "We thought, 'how can we represent a whole county, while still honouring the origins of Minden Pride,'" said Pride co-chair, Chris Hewson. "Part of our mandate is to ensure we are meeting everyone where they are at."

Minden Pride was formed in 2016, after the tragic shooting at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. This event coincided with an act of vandalism in Haliburton village, where a storefront was defaced with homophobic graffiti. With these events in mind, founders Sinclair Russell and Bob Baynton-Smith went to Minden Hills council in an effort to develop an established acknowledgment of local Pride.

The first few years of Minden Pride were comprised of flag raisings and community picnics, but it quickly grew into a week-long event that put Minden on the map; with street parties, trivia nights,

see PRIDE page 2

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Pride in the Highlands here for everyone

from page 1

drag shows, movie viewings, comedy nights, and more.

Though while the event grew in stature, Hewson noted that the title of 'Minden Pride' was a bit of a "blind spot".

"We had people coming from Gelert, from Haliburton, from Wilberforce, and coming to a Pride with a different name. And then it feels like you're just visiting."

Hewson shared that this was common feedback: the event serviced and represented individuals from all across the county, but perhaps did not represent the county as a whole.

When the organization announced their official rebrand to Pride in the Highlands during their Town Hall, Hewson said they were met with uproarious applause. "It's been an incredible response so far," he beamed, noting it is a transition period during the rebranding phase. "I couldn't be more thrilled with the response."

As Pride in the Highlands looks forward, they have identified some areas of interest they would like to focus on. Hewson shared that working with the youth of the community is key. "We are looking for ways in which we can create community connections," he said. "And for the youth of our community, there are a lot of gaps in the resources available."

Hewson noted that the registered not-for-profit is also seeking both committee members, as well as volunteers for the coming Pride Week, currently slotted for August 18 to 24 of this coming summer. For more information, visit www.mindenpride.ca.

Members of Minden Pride stand together on May 10 at the Pinestone after the announcement that the organization would be rebranding to Pride in the Highlands, in an effort to be more inclusive. /photo submitted

Rural context complicates parking plan

JAMES MATTHEWS
Journalist

The thing about a parking master plan for Algonquin Highlands is its unique geography compared to that of more urban centres.

Chris Card, the township's parks, recreation, and trails manager, said staff obtained an updated costing proposal for parking consulting services from the BA Consulting Group Ltd. of Toronto. It was something that had been discussed during preparations for the 2025 municipal operating and capital budget.

Actually, it is for a "consultant-led facilitation of a parking philosophy discussion," he said.

"I'm confident this is going in the direction that we'd like to see it go in at this time," he said.

Some of the features of the proposal include a virtual initiation meeting with staff to determine project scope and work plan schedule.

There's proposed to be an in-person staff and council engagement session, best practices and background studies review, and a summary and presentation of recommendations.

The intent of this process would be to facilitate a consultant led philosophy discussion, leading to required research and a presentation of recommendations. Outcomes would include future milestones specific to identified priorities.

Ultimately, the process would be similar to the one taken when the Strategic Plan was developed. An experienced consultant shepherded township personnel through a discussion in which feedback was given about priorities and problem areas.

"They then take the information, review that relative to best practices, do a background studies review for similar circumstances in similar sized comparable areas," Card said of the consultant's task.

Eventually, recommendations will be considered by council and staff.

"The outcome would really be to have a report that would give us future milestones specific to our priorities," he said.

It's all nicely defined and clearly laid out until, as if often the case with many things in life, the cost is broached.

Council earmarked $20,000 from the parking reserve fund in this year's budget for the parking master pan. But the price tag on the proposed service is $25,000. Card suggested council again dip into reserves to cover the shortfall.

That reserve fund is at $157,000.

Mayor Liz Danielsen said the study is a council priority. She said she wanted to know more about the sole-sourced consultant.

"I'm assuming there may not be a lot of companies who specialize in parking plans," she said.

Card said his department didn't issue a request for proposals for the project, but the avenue they pursued is in line with the purchasing policy. Staff researched the BA Group and took a look at similar parking studies their consultants had done for other Ontario municipalities.

"It looks like they have lot of experience," Danielsen said. "My only concern was that their experience seems to be geared towards more urban types of environments without much emphasis on docks and landings which is really what our priority is."

Councillor Lisa Barry said she shared that concern.

"We're not looking really for parking in Dorset of in any of our settlement areas," Barry said. "It's more mainly to do with docks and landings parking issues."

Card said he did have a conversation with the BA Group about docks and landings locations.

"They haven't handled that specific type of consideration however, in their words and from what I've been able to find as well, it is a unique situation," Card said. "What we did discuss is that a lot of the concepts of a development process is associated with a plan or some type of feedback that would give recommendations are similar processes and similar concepts. They're just on different scales."

Maybe the plan is to be limited to docks and landings. Then again, perhaps it will be decided that it will be a broader long-term plan. Parking for snowmobile access, for example. A parking lot that's too small to accommodate a community centre on a weekday with winter snow, as another example. It's known that there's parking capacity issues at Dorset Tower.

"That's something that, with their expertise, they may be able to at least provide some information for us to consider," Card said.

Then there are facets such as population forecasts and the relation to future parking needs.

"We know the population of the province and the area is increasing and there's a lot of information at various levels of government to say what those increases are going to be," he said. "You can make some reasonable assumptions about where you're going to end up in 20 years' time."

Danielsen said this is the beginning of an ongoing project and BA Group is aware of what the local issues are.

"I don't have any great concern with moving forward at this point in time," she said.

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If you live within this zone, please place your brush on the roadside for collection by 7:00 am, Monday, June 2nd. Pickup is available on County and Township roads only.
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Collection runs from May 12- June 13
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Haliburton Highlands
Township of Minden Hills

Lounge fosters cozy community vibe

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Brock Williamson, centre, cuts the ribbon at the Lounge's grand opening held on Thursday, May 22. /submitted

As I enter Lounge, I hear laughter as someone tells a story at their table. The smell of coffee and hash browns waft through the air, luring me in. The ambiance is inviting and my cappuccino is decorated with artful swirl. Smooth with no hint of bitterness, they surely know how to make a coffee.

On Thursday, May 22, Lounge celebrated its grand opening to a packed restaurant, filled with both friends and family.

Since their soft opening on May 4, owner Brock Williamson has been shocked by the support he has seen from the community. At their official opening, their staff could not keep up with the demand.

"Wait times are getting better," said Williamson.

With a shortage of staff, Williamson says that he has to ensure that the people that work for him do not get burned out. While balancing his career as a registered massage therapist, Williamson says that learning how to manage their supply inventory has been challenging. With inconsistent hours of demand, learning what to supply and how much to bring in has been tricky.

Their menu is also a work in progress. Items are added and taken off the menu depending on their popularity and they are trying out new menu items regularly.

Williamson envisioned the Lounge as a relaxing space.

"The space had to be comfortable and a place to hangout," said Williamson. "A place to enjoy a nice conversation."

Currently, Williamson is working on securing a liquor license to offer alcoholic drinks with their dinner menu. This past Sunday, Bill Black performed at the restaurant. Williamson says that they would like to increase their entertainment offerings. With alcohol being served, he hopes to increase their hours to draw an evening crowd.

He is also working on expanding Lounge's patio space, noting that working with Minden Hill's Chief Building Official Eric Guay has been smooth sailing.

"Eric has been incredibly helpful and accommodating," said Williamson.

Williamson shared that the restaurant's signature dishes are their classic breakfast and their fried chicken. The fried chicken recipe has been passed down through his family and perfected over the past decade.

After moving from British Columbia, Williamson craved the amenities that larger cities provide. With the growing population of Minden and the rest of Haliburton County, Williamson thought it was the perfect time to open his dream restaurant. While he lives in Algonquin Highlands, he chose the site of the former 50s Diner due to its proximity to Highway 35 and charm of Minden's community.

"Since day one, people have been kind and accepting," said Williamson.

Williamson says that Dorset was not considered due to its reliance on tourists and the seasonality of operating a restaurant there.

Like other restaurants in the area, Williamson is looking forward to finding the restaurant's niche to serve the community. He wants to challenge other businesses in Minden to extend their hours within town. With more amenities like groceries and restaurants open later, he hopes to foster a night life presence in Minden.

Lounge is located at 12311 Highway 35 in Minden and is open from Sunday through Tuesday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

www.mindenhills.ca In Case of Emergency Dial 911 / After-Hours Municipal Emergency Dial 1-866-856-3247

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

May 29 – Regular Council Meeting
June 12 – Regular Council Meeting
June 26 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently recruiting for the following vacancies:
- Temporary Full-Time Community Services Operator
- Waste Disposal Site Attendant (24 hrs/week)

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/careers for more information and how to apply.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• The Minden Hills Museum & Heritage Village and Nature's Place are now open for the season! Drop by Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation.

• *Mountain Lake at a Glance – The Hidden Nature of Paint*, an exhibit by Gord Peteran, is on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until July 12. Gord will be in the Gallery May 31 and June 14 from 12 – 2 pm to talk about his work. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm. All are welcome. Admission is by donation.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS: REINSTATEMENT OF BRUSH DISPOSAL FEES

Effective June 14, 2025, brush disposal fees will be reinstated. These fees were temporarily waived in response to the ice storm that impacted our area at the end of March. With clean up efforts now largely completed; standard brush disposal fees will resume.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

When an emergency vehicle with lights and sirens activated approaches, follow these steps to allow the vehicle to pass by:

1. Slow down.
2. Signal.
3. Move to the right side of the road, clear of any intersection.
4. Stop.

When the emergency vehicle has passed, check to make sure the way is clear and signal before merging back into traffic.

FITNESS CLASSES

Register for the June fitness classes online or in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena. The cost is $50 for 4 classes.

CELEBRATE CANADA DAY WITH MINDEN HILLS

Last call for applications to be a Vendor during the Minden Canada Day celebrations. Email mlocker@mindenhills.ca for the application and submit it by May 31, 2025.

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Canada Post strike

A Special Note to our valued subscribers

In anticipation of a possible strike by Canada Post we are making adjustments to how you can access your paper(s).

In the event of Canada Post Strike, delivery of all mail could be interrupted. During a strike the Times will continue to operate and print as always.

Subscribers can choose from the following options:

1. **Email** classifieds@haliburtonpress.com and we will send you a digital copy of the Times during the strike.

2. **Purchase** a paper at any local newspaper dealer in town.

3. **Stop by the Times office** 2 IGA Rd., Unit 2 Minden, **Wednesday, 9am - 1pm** and pick up your paper at no cost to you.

The Times

Measles identified in Lindsay Hospital

JAMES MATTHEWS
Journalist

Public health officials are tracing measles exposure at Ross Memorial Hospital in nearby Lindsay.

The Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough Public Health unit has confirmed some residents may have been exposed to measles at the hospital's emergency room waiting area and the triage area on May 19 from 1 p.m. until 10 p.m.

The infected individual is not from the health unit's catchment area but was confirmed to be infected with measles while seeking care at the hospital. The individual was unvaccinated and did not acquire the infection locally. The health unit is working closely with the hospital and tracing contacts identified as being in the specified area of the hospital during the same time period.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, the unit's deputy medical officer of health, said people at highest risk will be contacted first as part of the tracing. They are infants, pregnant women, and severely immunocompromised individuals.

Although people who get sick from measles usually recover without treatment, it is important to consider measles can be severe for those who are immunocompromised, including infants, pregnant women, and those with existing medical concerns.

Possible complications of contracting measles include middle ear infections, pneumonia, or swelling of the brain and, occasionally, death in young children. "It's critical that we work together to prevent further spread of this vaccine-preventable disease," Bocking said. "Measles is a serious but preventable illness with the vaccine being over 97 per cent effective after two doses.

"With cases on the rise provincially, it's important that our community is aware and protecting themselves."

The ongoing measles outbreak across the province has been especially difficult for the smaller rural centres.

For each measles infection reported province-wide, an investigation takes place to identify places where people may have been exposed to the virus. Smaller hospitals have to manage the workload associated with emergency department visits, laboratory investigations, imaging, and increased hospital admissions.

Officials at the public health unit told its board of health May 15 that a careful eye continues to be trained on the outbreak's progress.

Bocking said there have been between 150 and 200 new cases of measles every week across the province over about the last month. The majority of those cases have been attributed to an initial outbreak that began last fall.

The outbreak has tallied 1,622 infections in Ontario so far.

Of that number, 94 per cent of patients have never been vaccinated for measles, or have an unknown immunization status.

"This is an outbreak that has been impacting people who are not vaccinated and not protected against the measles virus," Bocking said.

There have been 119 hospitalizations associated with the outbreak. Nine have been intensive care cases. Public Health Ontario has said 84 of that number are children.

> ***"At the health unit, we continue to plan and prepare for when a case may or will likely arrive."***
>
> — Dr. Natalie Bocking

"This is a pretty significant number for our region and the province overall," she said. "The majority of cases continue to be in southwestern Ontario."

There are no cases within the HKNP public health unit's geographic area of responsibility, but there is potential for a case to occur. As such, the health unit continues to prepare for when a case may arise.

Communication efforts have been enhanced across both pre-merger legacy websites and social media channels. Direct contact has been made with recreational camps to ensure operators are aware of how to protect campers and staff.

Bocking said vaccination continues to be the most important way to protect against measles. She asked that health board members when they speak to their colleagues to impress upon them the importance of vaccinations.

"I think we should not be surprised if we do see a case," she said. "We certainly have had individuals that have been exposed in other jurisdictions where a case has been identified. So at the health unit, we continue to plan and prepare for when a case may or will likely arrive."

A board of health member who is fully vaccinated and has been so for many years asked if it's necessary to get a booster vaccine.

"In general, we consider people born before 1970 to be immune to measles because the prevalence of measles at that time was quite high," Bocking said. "So if you had a measles infection, you're presumed to be immune to it."

The standard of having two doses of the vaccine, the first in infancy and the second between four and six years old, wasn't adopted until the late-1990s.

"So there might be a small portion of the public that only received one dose of the MMR vaccine," she said.

That's the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine.

"So if people have a history of one dose of MMR, they're absolutely recommended to get a second dose," Bocking said. "If they're unsure they've had the measles or they're unsure if they have been vaccinated, then they can ask their health care provider for a second dose."

Dr. Thomas Piggott, the health unit's medical officer of health, said children as young as six months old can now get vaccinated.

"It is safe and effective protection," he said. "That's been a question we've received as well."

County goes to the people for their future's direction

JAMES MATTHEWS
Journalist

Imagine having a voice in the conversation that determines the direction of your community.

Haliburton County has provided a venue by which residents can give their thoughts about the kind of place they would like to see their home become to 2030. And, as such things are, beyond the next five years.

The 2025-30 Strategic Plan will go toward building what the community will be, quite simply. Such decisions shouldn't be left in the hands of the few, elected or not. And that's where the public is important.

The project's purpose is to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for the to guide county governance, development, and service delivery for the next five years. It will establish the county's vision, mission, goals, and objectives and outline the strategies and actions necessary to achieve them.

That's not something that should be left to only a few people to decide.

An online survey was recently launched to provide an avenue by which residents could contribute their voice. The survey closed May 26.

"We've been pleased with the response to the survey thus far, knowing it takes both time and energy for folks to respond and share their thoughts," said Sue Tiffin, the co-lead on the strategic plan with county Planning Director Elizabeth Purcell.

"Most of the survey responses we have received to date have been through the online survey option. However, some respondents have accessed a paper version instead."

Tiffin said hundreds of people have taken the time to add their voices to the county's social direction. Responses were received from everywhere throughout the county, she said.

"Hundreds of people have responded to the survey so far and have been positive about the opportunity to do so," she said before the portal closed.

There are multiple avenues for residents to engage with county council and staff.

"This is the first strategic plan being developed for the county and so it's really a unique opportunity for residents to have a say in the county's future priorities," Tiffin said. "We are developing this survey internally and we are absolutely listening to and learning from our community with each survey response we receive."

OPP seeking help in car theft

Haliburton Highlands OPP are seeking information and any potential video footage from the Tory Hill area during the evening of May 20, 2025, to May 21, 2025. A string of motor vehicle breaks ins, and the theft of a motor vehicle was reported to have taken place throughout the evening of May 20, 2025.

The motor vehicle was taken from an address in Dysart et al on County Road 503. The vehicle is a 2009 blue Subaru Outback with the Ontario plate number BMSV699.

If you have any information or video surveillance footage between the hours of 6:00 p.m on May 20, 2025, and 12:00 p.m. on May 21 2025, in relation to this theft, please call the Haliburton Highlands OPP at 1-888-310-1122. You can also call Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or message them at www.ontariocrimestoppers.ca, report # (E250645819).

Submitted

Lucky charm

A very rare four-petal trillium found in Minden Hills. The photographer likened the finding to an elusive four-leafed clover. /photo submitted by Elaine Bowen

Canada Post refuses overtime

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

While talks of a potential Canada Post strike have been in the works for weeks, on Friday, May 23, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) have shared that a full strike is not on the radar for the time being. Instead, they will refuse all overtime beyond eight hours a day and 40 hours a week.

"At this time, the union has decided to proceed with an overtime ban to minimize disruptions to the public and lost days for members," the union said in a statement.

This current rebuttal is a part of the ongoing negotiations between the Crown and the CUPW, which first came to the spotlight in November of last year, when 55,000 Canada Post workers went on strike for 32 days leading up to the holiday season.

At the time, former Labour Minister Steve MacKinnon ordered postal workers back to the job, which extended the existing collective agreement, allowing for another opportunity for dialogue around the sticking points.

Despite ongoing discussions, the two sides remain at odds over a number of issues, including wages, benefits, and holiday deliveries. CUPW had asked for a wage increase of 19 per cent over four years, with Canada Post suggesting 13.59 per cent over four years. Neither party is budging on the numbers at the time of press.

> ***"The union has decided to proceed with an overtime ban to minimize disruptions to the public and lost days for members ..."***
>
> — Canadian Union of Postal Workers

The other major issue was weekend shifts, which both the Crown and CUPW agree should happen, with the former wanting part-time workers, and the latter seeking full-time staff.

For the time being, regular mail will continue status quo, though there is concern around the trepidatious nature of the strike in the coming weeks. If delivery services should halt, the *Minden Times* and the *Haliburton Echo* will communicate with subscribers accordingly. The papers will continue to report on the story as information becomes available.

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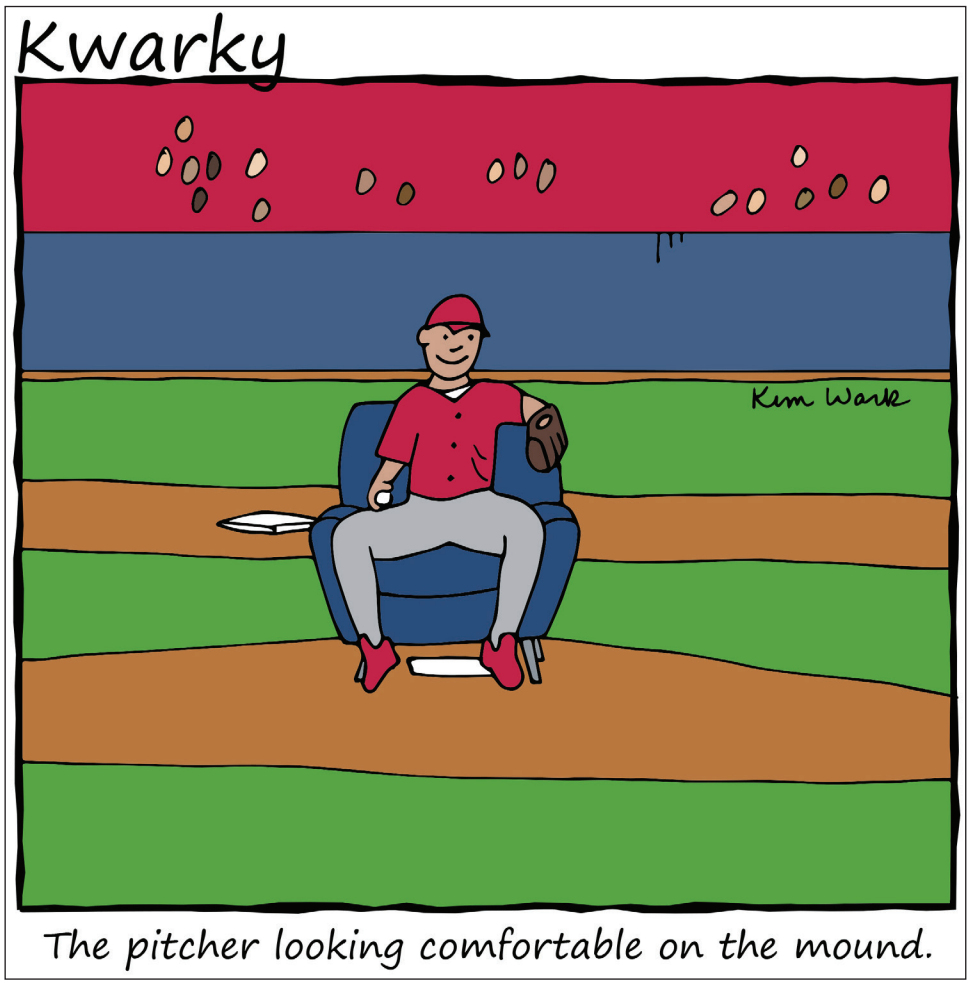


Rural murals

Editorial

Emily Stonehouse

MURAL, MURAL, on the wall. Who is the fairest town of them all?

I recently spent a weekend in Huntsville, and I have to say, I was pleasantly surprised by the effort put into the downtown core of the tourism town. It's widely known that the community has a connection to the mysterious story of Tom Thomson - an artist on the fringe of the Group of Seven, whose ghost has haunted local bonfire tales and cabins after the lights go out for decades.

Huntsville leaned into this. They effectively marketed Thomson and the talent and mystery that surrounds his name. Sculptures, infographics, and murals adorn the downtown core; taking pride in their role in Thomson's life, and as a result, creating a defined pride of place.

I found my eyes naturally drawn to the murals. I spotted a funeral parlour with one, an art gallery, a clothing shop, a cafe. There was no real rhyme or reason to who carried the murals, the only common denominator was a downtown location.

And to me, this seems like some low hanging fruit for a town to create a sense of identity. We have a few murals scattered around Minden, all depictions of paintings by renowned artist Andre Lapine, who perhaps does not have the same revered draw as Tom Thomson, but has certainly made his mark in the arts world.

Beyond having the nearly complete collection of Lapine's life work housed at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, this is also a community of incredibly talented artists. Murals seem like an easy option to add a pop of colour to a town that spends half its year under a blanket of snow.

So what's the hold-up? Is it a lack of interested artists? Businesses who aren't seeing outside the box? Some sort of hiccup in a by-law that we can't seem to overcome? Kudos to the River Cone and their recently released mural at the back of their business. That is an example of a business who adds colour and creativity to a world that's used to the status quo black and white day-to-day.

Perhaps the challenges arise with a lack of formalized direction. It's not the township's job to add colour to the community, at least, at this time, they don't have any one individual or department dedicated to that. When the Lapine murals were added to the town, it was when economic development and tourism was done at a lower-tier level - a job that's since been shuffled up to the county umbrella of responsibilities.

In Dysart, there is an established BIA - an organization that puts the best interest of community collaboration on the forefront. A Minden BIA is something that's been in talks for longer than I've been around (both professionally and personally) and doesn't seem to be something that anyone has taken a lead on. Is it the job of the township to designate leaders in this situation, or does it take one eager business to put their best foot forward and hope that others follow their path?

Huntsville and Minden are highly comparable: two little tourist towns, idyllically placed on a waterway that twists and turns throughout the core. There are quaint shops, good food, and a medley of events and experiences that provides our hometown hearts with a pulse.

And who knows if the funding is different, the leadership is different, or the priorities are different, but I think we have a ways to go when it comes to being the fairest of them all.

Moving targets

Beyond 35

Steve Galea

ONE OF the things outdoors magazines and television shows never mention is how moving from one home to another can be hazardous to an outdoorsman's mental health.

Having just experienced this, I really wished they did.

I mean, if some sage outdoors hunter or angler had given me any kind of advice on this, I would not have been in the precarious position I found myself in. Because Jenn would have never actually learned how many fishing rods, bows, and firearms I actually have.

Before the move she thought I had one of each.

This is predominantly because every fishing rod, bow, and firearm looks the same to her – and I only take one out at a time. Unfortunately, when you pull all the firearms out of the gun safes, and gather all the bows for a reunion, and put all the fishing rods in the back of the vehicle, looks don't matter. Numbers do.

Large numbers will cause your spouse to say things like, "Are all these yours?"

I could have lied and said, "No, I'm just storing them for friends." But that would have been wrong - mostly because I don't have that many friends.

So then I had to explain that I needed this firearm for hunting squirrels, rabbits and hares, and this shotgun for hunting waterfowl and that one for hunting grouse and woodcock, and this rifle for hunting deer, and that one for hunting bear, and that one for hunting moose and that one for hunting wildebeest – to which she replied with hurtful questions like, "When was the last time you hunted wildebeest?" or "Couldn't you have just bought one rifle that will work for all the big game animals?"

I immediately pleaded the fifth, even though I knew that doesn't apply in Canada. But before she could call me out on that, she saw the pile of fishing rods.

This caused her to ask, "Did you rob a sporting goods store?"

To which I said, "Would you turn me in if I said yes?"

Apparently, she is a law-and-order type of person.

So, I decided to try a different tact.

"I got each one of these at clearance sales," I said.

Frankly it wasn't easy. Especially since I had to do it while standing in front of a pyramid of tackle boxes.

But she soon noticed those too…

The good news is Jenn was cool about all this.

In fact, she told me that she didn't care how many fishing rods, firearms, or bows I had. She mentioned that she was just surprised by the sheer volume of it all.

Better still, she continued to be very reasonable and even said something to the effect of, "I'm glad that you have nice things to fish and hunt with."

I immediately thought that I had lucked out and was partners with the most wonderful, considerate and generous woman that ever existed.

"Thank you," I said.

It was well-deserved. I honestly thought that she was going to tell me I had some sort of hoarding problem. But then I realized I had already slipped my fly tying stuff past her, so that probably wasn't going to happen.

"I can't believe you are so understanding about this," I said.

"No problem at all," she replied. "We all have our weaknesses."

Then she stepped aside and showed me her travel mug collection …

points of view

Is this fake?

Humans & Techonology

Erin Kernohan-Berning

I WAS SCROLLING on Instagram when I saw a reel in which a polar bear was walking through the suburbs. The shaky video showed the bear walk between two parked cars over a curb and onto a well-manicured lawn. The video cut to a man holding an open *Jumanji* board game, sheepishly closing the lid, clearly claiming a mea culpa for summoning such a large beast to his neighbourhood. The video was clearly a joke, and all in good fun for those who are fans of the *Jumanji* movie franchise. The video of the polar bear was also entirely fake, generated by an AI video generator.

The comments on the video largely focused on the joke itself – cracking wise about the foolishness of playing magical board games that will only invite trouble during already troubling times. However, a few comments earnestly pointed out the dangers of polar bears and how the non-existent camera operator was in peril, clearly taken in by the AI fakery. Even fewer comments keyed-in on the video being AI generated, pointing out giveaways like poorly rendered curbs and vehicles that were out of perspective.

Besides video creation, creators can use AI-powered facial filters that reconstruct their faces. A few years ago, a glamour filter on TikTok that adorned the user's face with makeup and contouring sparked controversy for its potential to reinforce unattainable beauty standards. Today, there are very convincing filters for all sorts of purposes. One creator, likely in her 20s, dispenses humorous quips about life while using a granny filter that makes her quite convincingly appear as if she is in her 80s. Another creator recounts episodes from her childhood using a filter that resculpts her face to make her appear as a 6 year old. In both of these cases filters are used for comedic purposes, the audience is aware of the fakery and in on the joke.

AI video tools are also used to spread disinformation and scams. Social media platforms are riddled with deepfake videos that are disseminated through ad networks, featuring AI-generated images and video of well-known public figures. Most recently, a faked video of Prime Minister Mark Carney extolling the virtues of cryptocurrency has been making the rounds. Other fake ads have purloined the likenesses of Justin Trudeau, Pierre Poilievre, and Jagmeet Singh – demonstrating that chicanery is truly non-partisan. Often these ads link to cryptocurrency scam websites where, for the promise of risk-free riches, unwitting victims hand over their cash and payment details.

Generative AI has ushered in an era of extremely easy and accessible fakery. Past hoaxes like grainy doctored photos of the Loch Ness monster, UFOs that were just hubcaps suspended from fishing line, and even Photoshopped images of the early naughts took skill and time to be at all effective. Now, with nothing more than an idea and a prompt, anyone can create something that isn't real, but that looks real. With a handful of keystrokes, the likeness of someone can be used without their consent to create a video of "them" perpetuating a scam or disinformation, or worse.

Legislation is slow to catch up with technology. Carney pledged during the election to criminalize the creation of non-consensual pornographic images, which has been a growing problem. Scam ads using deepfakes are against most sites' terms of service, however because they are delivered by vast and nebulous ad networks, they often reach thousands of users before being taken down – if they are taken down at all. Actress Jamie Lee Curtis had to publicly tag Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg's Instagram account asking to have deepfakes of her removed after efforts through "proper channels" were unsuccessful.

Unfortunately, when viewing online content, asking "could this be fake?" is a reasonable first response. Generative AI has made fake images and videos more convincing and harder to spot. The most frightening danger of deepfakes, like with most AI generated fakery, is that they can undermine a shared understanding of reality. When you start off from a position where everything is fake, understanding what is real becomes much harder. To combat this, we will all need to develop our own discernment when viewing content online. The good news is this is a skill we can all develop with practice.

Rather than scouring images and videos for AI tells like muddled text and extra fingers, using our information evaluation skills is a more technologically resilient practice. Does the image or video come from a reliable source? Can you trace the video back to its original human creator? What is the apparent purpose of the video? Is it trying to sell you something or prompt you to provide sensitive information? Does it elicit a strong emotional reaction? These initial questions should trigger your inner skeptic and help you discern whether something is real or fake.

Minden Memories

During the Great Depression, hundreds of workers constructed the highway between Kinmount and Minden, chipping at granite with picks and shovels between 1931 and 1934. Despite earning just $5 to $10 a month, the job was attractive for its three daily meals. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

letters to the editor

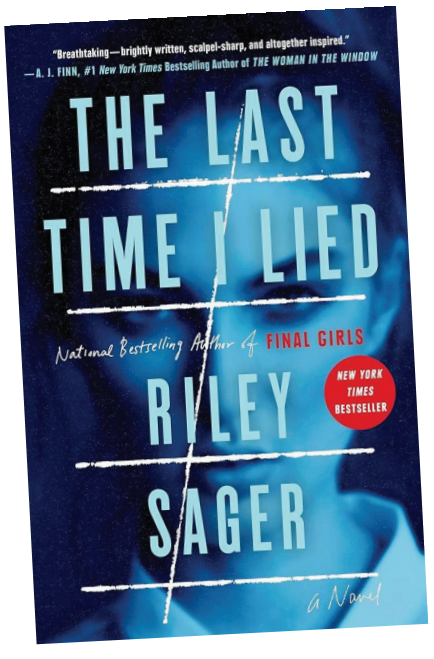
Please return items

To the Editor,

Whoever borrowed my 2009 Subaru Outback Wagon out of my carport during the early morning of the 21 May in Tory Hill, I'd appreciate it if you would give me back these two items out of the grove compartment: my wallet, and a small square gray battery. Also behind the front seat is a book of pictures in a plastic folder, in a small cardboard box is some nuts and bolts plus a funny looking key on a square orange key chain, laying on the floor is another small key painted yellow along with a tractor seat custom, as well as a almost worn out black jacket and anything else that you might think I'd like. I'd appreciate it if you could take the car key off of the key chain and give me back the rest of the keys as well. Please place all in a plastic garbage bag and leave at the bottom of my driveway at 13012 County Road 503, or drop off at the radio station in Haliburton, Canoe FM 1009.

Don Outram,
Tory Hill

HCPL's Book of the Week


"Breathtaking—brightly written, scalpel-sharp, and altogether inspired."
—A. J. FINN, #1 New York Times Bestselling Author of THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW
THE LAST TIME I LIED
National Bestselling Author of FINAL GIRLS
RILEY SAGER
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
A Novel

Fifteen years after her three cabin mates vanished from Camp Nightingale, Emma Davis - now a rising NYC artist - returns to the camp as a painting counselor, hoping to find closure. But the past resurfaces quickly: a security camera watches her cabin, the camp's owner grows suspicious, and Emma finds cryptic clues hinting at dark secrets left behind by one of the missing girls. When three more campers disappear, Emma must unravel the truth buried in Camp Nightingale's history before it's too late.

The Last Time I Lied by Riley Sager is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

The Mason Jar celebrates one year anniversary

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

This spring, the Mason Jar celebrated their one year anniversary at their 15436 Highway 35 location in Carvarnon.

Luckily, owner Tara Schroeder says that their business was unaffected by the ice storm in April. Last spring and summer, the Mason Jar was upgraded by Kegel Heating and Cooling who installed a heater system in their truck. They also built an awning providing cover for customers ordering.

"During the slower season, we took the time to revamp our summer menu, and make other necessary updates to the truck," said Schroeder. "This time allowed us to slow down a little, enjoy time with friends and family, ice fish, snowmobile, and take a trip to a sunny destination."

Despite the frigid temperature this past Victoria Day, Schroeder says that they were not disappointed by the turnout. She says that they had a lineup and their parking lot was fully packed.

New additions to their menu include onion rings, a spicy basil pork power bowl, roadhouse smash burger, jumbo hot dog, chocolate caramel cheesecake and the Minden Chicken Mac. Toppings for their signature "Minden Mac" line of sandwiches includes bacon, cheddar cheese, diced onions, lettuce, dill pickles, and their signature Jar sauce. An assortment of salads is planned to be available later in the season.

"We ended up turning our online ordering system off early in the weekend due to the high volume of customers," said Schroeder. "We are so grateful for all the customers we were able to serve during this weekend."

The team at the Mason Jar spent their quieter season preparing the destination for a busy summer ahead, as they celebrated one year in business. /photo submitted

With summer weather fast approaching, the Mason Jar will be open five days a week, from Thursday to Monday. This spring, they will be open from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m., and hope to extend their hours as the weather gets warmer.

"This first year has far exceeded the humble beginnings of what we expected, in every way," said Schroeder. "We have built an incredible customer base from those living in the surrounding communities, but also on our social media platforms and beyond."

Schroeder says that this is just the beginning for the Mason Jar brand.

"We are currently working on building a strong team, which will be the foundation to expanding in the future," said Schroeder. "For right now, this massive food truck keeps us all very busy."

Like many small town businesses, the Mason Jar has found it challenging to find and hold onto quality staff. Lacking the resources and amenities for workers to settle down, Schroeder says that affordable housing is a huge concern for their business. An inconsistent and seasonal fluctuation of the population makes it difficult for employers to offer year-round employment. With a lack of indoor season, Schroeder says that their business is at a disadvantage during the colder months.

"I believe that owning a food related business is a tough industry to be in, no matter where you happen to be located," said Schroeder. "This just so happens to be the prominent challenge our local food industry businesses have to face in this area."

The Mason Jar is currently looking for staff to join their crew. Applications can be sent to them through their Instagram @themasonjarfoodco or by contacting them through their website themasonjar.ca.

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Spirit Mart offers guidance in Minden

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Larissa Thomas has opened Spirit Mart at 100 Bobcaygeon Road. At the shop, she offers tarot readings, enneagram sessions, and a variety of accessories and t-shirts she designed herself. She also offers caricature drawings. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Larissa Thomas' talents for tarot and enneagram coaching first started as a teenager, when she offered readings to her friends. "I stopped for a long time," reflected Thomas.

Five years ago, she started to get back into the practice of tarot and enneagram personality coaching. Thomas also completed training in mindset coaching, semitism, and nervous system regulation.

In the past, Thomas has offered sessions in tarot and enneagram personality typing at Ommmh, Rising Thymes and online.

While working at Up Rider Trading Company, Thomas asked owners Mike McKeon and Paul Roy if they would be interested in renting out a part of their space at the corner of Newcastle Street and Bobcaygeon Road (100 Bobcaygeon Road).

"They are both generous, lovely people," described Thomas.

Previously used as storage space for Up River, Thomas has moved in and used her artistic ability to add a splash of colour and sparkle. With shelves covered with her own artwork and lights projected across the wall, Thomas refers to the space as her "purple cave."

From her storefront, she offers walk-in tarot readings, extended tarot alchemy sessions, and personality decoding sessions using the Enneagram of Personality.

"It is an unearthing and mirroring process," said Thomas. "I feel like a lot of people when they come in for a reading, it is because they want an answer about something or there is something they feel they want clarity in. It comes from something deeper for somebody to tell them what is okay, it is deeper than that."

Her readings and guidance are informed by freedom of choice and free will based tarot readings where she employs coaching modalities and to help show elucidate possibilities in life pathways. While frequently requested, Thomas cannot inform health diagnoses or mental health treatment plans.

She assures everyone that she is not channelling the voices of our departed and cannot tell you the winning lottery numbers. However, she is able to help customers reflect upon themselves, and aid you in whatever situation you are facing. Sessions are solution-oriented, rather than presenting customers with direct fates.

Readings inform what path you may take to approach a situation, or see what is standing in your life's pathway. Sessions may be on your career, opportunities, and spiritual 'u-turns' you may not have realized you are destined for. The duration of a reading is around 25 minutes.

Tarot alchemy sessions provide more in-depth coaching assistance, which she refers to as a 'cosmic strategy session'. These sessions are typically around 50 minutes.

Thomas also offers personality decoding sessions at her shop. Through a series of questions, Thomas determines what personal types people may fall under with the Enneagram of Personality. With nine core personality types, wings that influence your personality, and dominant instincts that influence how you view the world, the personal decoding sessions help people understand themselves more in-depth. It allows customers to become more aware of how they view the world and what drives them.

Coping strategies and relationship dynamics can be discussed during these sessions. Personality types three, six, and nine are the most common personality types which include achievers, loyalists, and peacemakers respectively.

"It's very powerful, especially if you are trying to manifest things or to break patterns in your life," said Thomas. "I am trying to depressurize people's lives and give them a feeling of abundance, freedom, and sovereignty."

Spirit Mart also has a selection of books, tarot decks, accessories, and clothing that Thomas designed herself. Her designs are Minden, Haliburton, and spiritually inspired. Contrary to popular belief, Thomas says that being unable to purchase your first tarot deck is an urban legend.

"Don't be scared," says Thomas with a laugh. "It is just a tool and a mirror into your own energy."

Everyone is welcome into the shop, whether you are curious about personality decoding, tarot, or her art.

Spirit Mart is open from Thursday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment Monday through Wednesday. Bookings can be made online at tidycal.com/booklarissa and the store's Instagram account is @spirit.mart.

Feast and Fusion making pizzas for good

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Walking into Feast and Fusion, you are greeted by bright colours and a collection of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* memorabilia. A handwritten menu board with cheeky names like *This Little Piggy* greet you to let you know that yes, their food is homemade, and yes, it is made with love.

Then the mouth-wateringly cheesy aroma of pizza hits you.

Mitch Alexander and his partner Vincent Parkhurst are thrilled to have celebrated their grand opening of Feast and Fusion on Friday, May 23.

"I started cooking with my mom and that is where I learned really good, healthy, from-scratch cooking," said Alexander.

Alexander, a resident of Burnt River, began working in kitchens as a young adult, with his first job being at the Cow and Sow in Fenelon Falls. After graduating high school, he decided to go to culinary school and has loved his decision ever since.

Parkhurst, a Fenelon Falls resident became immersed in the culinary world while living in Montreal and never left, even when he moved back to Fenelon Falls.

Feast and Fusion began as a catering business, while Alexander worked at the Lotus Indian Bistro in Fenelon Falls. Three years ago, Alexander met Parkhurst working at the bistro and have been inseparable ever since.

Alexander says that independence and the ability to control what is offered attracted him to open his own restaurant. Getting the chance to work with Parkhurst has been icing on the cake. Fully supported by Alexander's husband, Adam Brant, they were thrilled to see the former location of Bottled Up Meals and A Slice of the North become available on the market.

From left, Mitch Alexander and Vincent Parkhurst are thrilled to be open and ready to serve the finest pizzza, soups, and sandwiches to Kinmount and the surrounding areas. /THOMAS SMITH staff

"It's really cool here," said Alexander. "Kinmount has a lot of potential. We hope we are going to bring something special here. Right now, the dining here is pretty limited."

Brant says that the name Feast and Fusion comes from the Indigenous practice of feasting, with the fusion part of the name coming from the Italian-inspired foods and Alexander's own innovative creations.

The restaurant's opening was intentionally kept subtle to ease them into opening before getting things going at full bore.

By the Sunday of the Victoria long weekend, they completely ran out of cheese and were able to close their restaurant on the Monday. As I write this article, they post on their Instagram that they have sold out of dough, speaking to the quality and popularity of their offerings.

As 90s kids, Alexander and Parkhurst were big fans of the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* cartoon. With the cartoon turtles' love of pizza, the pair decided that having the turtles around would be a fun and thematic way to show that they are family friendly. Alexander has yet to decide if Donatello or Michaelangelo is his favourite. Parkhurst says that Leonardo is likely his favourite, as he has become the unofficial mascot of their restaurant.

"My real favourite is Splinter," said Parkhurst, earnestly.

Alexander's culinary inspirations include Lynn Crawford and Massimo Capra.

"Pizza was an obvious decision because we had the oven and I love pizza," said Alexander. "We kind of have an Italian theme."

Feast and Fusion's menu include a selection of pizzas, pasta, sandwiches, wraps, soups, loaded bagels, salads, and a selection of desserts.

Currently, they have three signature pizzas with a portion of the proceeds going towards charity. *The Cat's Meow* pizza uses a white sauce base, with chicken, tomatoes, feta, parmesan, herbs, and a choice of one to 10 anchovies. Proceeds from the pizza go towards the cat sanctuary at the Highlands Cinema.

"We just love animals, and what Keith does at the theatre is super cool," said Alexander.

The Sumac pizza utilizes a white base and is topped with sumac-infused caramelized onions, shawarma spiced chicken, tomatoes, olives, and herbs. The sumac offers a citrus note that compliments the buttery, rich flavours of the caramelized onions and shawarma chicken. The proceeds from *The Sumac* go towards the SUMAC Free Food Pantry and Community Garden in Fenelon Falls. SUMAC stands for the Sacred Unity Mutual Aid Collective, a nonprofit that Parkhurst and Alexander had a hand in starting.

"*The Sumac* is the most creative and delicious pizza we have," said Alexander.

Their third signature pizza, called *The Laughing Buddha* also uses a white sauce base topped with vegan cheese, Beyond Meat sausage, vegan meatballs, roasted red peppers, sundried tomatoes, and artichokes. Proceeds from *The Laughing Buddha* go towards The Dharma Centre of Canada (that is based in Kinmount). The Dharma Centre is a charitable organization that provides meditation masters, innovative scientists, artists, and healers the space to practice and teach meditation. The Dharma Centre is also dedicated to the study of philosophy, religion, and performs charitable works throughout Canada.

Feast and Fusion will also have a pay-it-forward board, allowing people to prepurchase food for others that need it.

"We want to have big, bold flavours, but still feel homey," said Alexander.

Well aware that Kinmount relies on the seasonal influx of business, Alexander has aspirations to remain open year-round. They also hope to offer delivery soon. With Alexander's father recently retiring, he is hoping to recruit him to their team to assist them with deliveries.

Currently working as a duo, Alexander and Parkhurst are confident that they will be able to stay open until at least 9 p.m. on the weekends, catering to visitors leaving the Highlands Cinema.

Working together is a dream come true for the dynamic duo.

"We work really well together," said Alexander. "It's like we don't even have to talk."

"It's easy," said Parkhurst, noting that he does appreciate the opportunity to boss Alexander around.

All of the sauces that are used on their pizzas are made from scratch and they try to source as many Canadian ingredients as possible. A lot of their produce comes from a farm in Bobcaygeon.

Feast and Fusion does its best to adhere to dietary restrictions and has dedicated an entire oven to gluten-free products.

In the future, Alexander and Parkhurst hope to extend their menu with a Thai peanut inspired pizza, using their own butter chicken recipe. They also plan on organizing a colouring contest for kids, with free pizzas as prizes for the winner's family.

Their rustic red sauce is lovingly homemade with traces of veggies like celery and onions. The pizzas are filled generously with thick, golden-brown cheese. Baked to perfection, the pair have perfected the ratio of topping and cheese to their deep set crust, which has a satisfying crispness.

Feast and Fusion is currently open on Thursday and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. and from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. They are also currently open by chance on Wednesdays, with intentions to open later once they have more staff.

They are also seeking additional staff, encouraging high school students looking for a job to apply.

"We have no issues with things like tattoos or coloured hair," said Alexander with a laugh.

Feast and Fusion is located at 4090 County Road 121 in Kinmount.

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Threads of Connection - A Textile Arts Network Gathering

When: May 29 at 1 p.m.
Where: West Guilford Community Centre
Calling all textile artists, crafters, and creatives - whether you're a seasoned pro or just exploring the world of textiles, this gathering is for you!
What to expect: Meet and mingle with local textile makers, share your work and learn from others, exchange ideas, resources, and inspiration. Bring a friend, your enthusiasm, and some work to do! Let's stitch something beautiful - together. For more details visit www.haliburtonarts.on.ca

"Who we ART - Why is Art Crucial to Humankind's Existence?"

When: Tuesday, June 3 at 7 p.m.
Where: Schofield Room, Haliburton Legion, 719 Mountain St., Haliburton
You are invited to a discussion with Xavier Massé, Dean of Haliburton School of Art + Design on the topic of how art is crucial to our existence and is a foundation for communities, connecting us to beauty for our well-being. The evening will begin with live music by local singer-songwriter Thom Lambert. This presentation is part of a continuing series on "Making our Communities Better Places", is open to all, with no admission charge or pre-registration required. Light refreshments are provided. It is hosted by the Baha'i community of Haliburton.

Learn to Garden for Kids

When: June 3, 4 - 5 p.m.
Kids aged 6 years or older who want to learn about gardening are welcome to join the Horticultural Society Youth Members Program. Email for details: minden.jr.hort.club@gmail.com

Peonies

When: June 3, 7 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Centre, 55 Parkside St., Minden.
Do you love to garden? Please join the Minden & District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Centre. Guest speaker Ingrid Janssen will be discussing 'Peonies', followed by the monthly society meeting. New members welcome!

Highlands Wind Symphony Spring Concert

When: Sun. June 8, 3 p.m.
Where: Lakeside Church, 9 Park St, Haliburton
Featuring Highlands Wind Symphony & Highlands Swing Band with Jerelyn Craden. Tickets $15 Adult, $30 Family. Available at Master's Book Store in Haliburton, or Pharmasave Minden. Call or text Lorie at 705-306-0433 for more information

Red Hawks rise above

Parish Sets Two New COSSA Records

The Red Hawk Track and Field team competed at COSSA at Bruce Faulds Track in Belleville on Thursday, May 22. The rain fell continuously throughout the day and temperatures dipped to single-digits as the winds gusted off lake Ontario.

Red Hawk athletes continued to persevere despite the weather conditions, finishing the day setting two new COSSA records; two new school records and qualifying 21 athletes for OFSAA East Regionals in Ottawa on May 29 and 30.

The rain and wind didn't seem to phase Addyson Parish, who led the team with three first-place COSSA finishes, including a new COSSA record and personal best in the Junior Girls Long Jump with a leap of 5.27 metres, surpassing the mark of 5.14 metres set in 2010 by Belleville's Arielle Fitzgerald. Parish also laid claim to the Junior Girls Triple Jump record with her jump of 11.09 metres, bettering the previous jump of 10.89 metres set in 2014. Parish went on to run a personal best of 12.50 the 80 metre hurdles to take her third COSSA gold.

Novice Boy Jadyn Hamilton also ran some excellent races, nabbing not only the 100 metre COSSA title, but surpassing Fynn Gooley's Novice Boys HHSS record from last year with a blistering run of 11.70 in the prelims. Jadyn also ran to a third-place finish in the 400 metres.

Novice Girl Annika Gervais nabbed her first COSSA gold as she ran away from the field in the 800 metre race. She also ran to a second-place finish in the 400 metre, setting another new school record with her time of 1:04.8, finishing just under Kate Campbell's mark set back in 1996. Gervais also put her name to the HHSS 800 metre record earlier this season.

It was a challenging day for throwers with wet implements and crosswinds, but Luke Gruppe still managed to prevail to take the Novice Boys Discus title, as did Junior Boy Atticus Jorritsma. Cheyenne Degeer rounded out our list of COSSA champions with her determined run and personal best in the 400 metre hurdles, an event new to her this year as a Grade 12 student.

A COSSA silver medal was also won by Degeer in the Senior Girls 400 metre; Graham Backus in the 110 metre Hurdles and 400 metre Hurdles; Fynn Gooley in Junior Boys Long Jump and the Open Girls 4x400 metre relay team of Degeer, Gervais, Erika Hoare and Violet Humphries.

There were some great and gutsy runs from Red Hawk relay teams, who were able to hold on to wet batons and move up in the ranks to all qualify for East Regionals. An excellent show of true Haliburton grit from all athletes.

Despite frigid temperatures and all-day rain, the Hal High track team shone at the COSSA meet in Belleville. /submitted by Karen Gervais

I must go seek some dewdrops here ...

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School recently showcased their rendition of a *Midsummer Night's Dream*, a Shakespearian classic. The play was supported by the youth theatre group, Ctrl-ART-Del, and has been in rehearsals for months before gracing the stage to eager audiences this past weekend. The show had a local student cast and crew, and the students and teachers created and developed their own sets, costumes, and props. /photos submitted

Wildcats roar!

The annual elementary school track and field meet in Haliburton faced a day of drizzle and sunshine, as track stars from across the county came to compete this past weekend. With competitive events in running, jumping, throwing, and skipping, the fun-filled day allowed for the young athletes so show off their skills, and meet kids from neighbouring schools. /ADAM FRISK Special to the *Times*

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8				7				1
3		2	9	1				
	7			5				

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 15

Rain or shine

Friends of the Rail Trail hosted an educational walk in Kinmount on Sunday, a part of their weekly Sunday Rambles, where community members trekked over the Howland Junction railway trestle bridge. Nearly 20 people made the trip to take in views from the 60-foot high bridge above Kendrick's Creek. /ADAM FRISK Special to the *Times*

Friends of the Rail Trail volunteer and hike leader Rod Frketich speaks about some of the rail trail's history before leading the hike.

Hikers make their way along the rail trail in Kinmount on Sunday.

Rod Frketic poses for a photo during Friends of the Rail Trail walk.

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DESCRIPTION:

- The guyed wire structure will sit within a chain-link fenced compound. The compound will contain a walk-in equipment cabinet housing radio equipment, tools, manuals and first aid kit.
- The site will provide fast and reliable wireless voice and data services in the central portion of the Municipality of Minden Hills and will provide future co-location potential, therefore eliminating the need for additional infrastructure in the area.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION:

With respect to this matter, the public is invited to provide written comments or request additional information by **June 24th, 2025,** to the contact shown below. Please include a return address.

A public information session will be held virtually **on June 25th, 2025 from 6:00 to 7:00p.m**. Please register using the email and phone number below by June 24th, 2025.

Spectra Point Inc. - Agent for Rogers
William Elder
302-1090 Don Mills Road
Toronto,On. M3C 3R6
Phone: (416)726-8555
Email: welder@spectrapoint.ca

LOCATION: The site is located in a rural area off Sedgwick Road

ADDRESS: 1221 Sedgwick Road

AVIS PUBLIC
ROGERS COMMUNICATIONS - PROJET D'INSTALLATION D'UN PYLÔNE DE TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS SANS FIL HAUBANÉ DE 90 MÈTRES C3950

DESCRIPTION:

- La structure en fil de fer haubané sera située à l'intérieur d'une enceinte clôturée par un grillage. L'enceinte contiendra une armoire de rangement pour l'équipement radio, les outils, les manuels et la trousse de premiers secours.
- Le site fournira des services voix et données sans fil rapides et fiables dans la partie centrale de la municipalité de Minden Hills et offrira un potentiel de co-localisation futur, éliminant ainsi le besoin d'infrastructures supplémentaires dans la région.

CONSULTATION PUBLIQUE :

En ce qui concerne cette question, le public est invité à fournir des commentaires écrits ou à demander des informations supplémentaires avant **le 24 Juin. 2025** , au contact indiqué ci-dessous. Veuillez inclure une adresse de retour.

Une session d'information publique se tiendra virtuellement **le 25 Juin 2025 de 18h00 à 19h00**. Veuillez vous inscrire en utilisant l'email et le numéro de téléphone ci-dessous avant le 24 Juin 2025.

Spectra Point Inc. - Agent for Rogers
William Elder
302-1090 Don Mills Road
Toronto,On. M3C 3R6
Phone: (416)726-8555
Email: welder@spectrapoint.ca

EMPLACEMENT : Le site est situé dans une zone rurale près de Sedgwick Road.

ADRESSE : 1221 Sedgwick Road

Market magic

The Farmers' Market is back in full force in Minden by the township offices. Rain or shine, there are vendors each Saturday showcasing their products and welcoming visitors to the downtown core. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Telling our Stories

The Thursday, June 12 "Telling Our Stories" Speakers Series presentation features Steve Paikin, the host of TVO's flagship current affairs program, *The Agenda with Steve Paikin*. Mr. Paikin's topic is titled *The Man Behind the Myth - An Intimate Biography of John Turner*. In addition to his role as a TV journalist and personality, Mr. Paikin is also an author and wrote John Turner's biography. Mr. Turner, of course, was the Prime Minister of Canada in 1984 for only 79 short but impactful days. Mr. Paikin also co-hosts the weekly provincial affairs *#onpoli* podcast and recently moderated the English language Federal Leaders debate. He's also a resilient Leafs fan! As ticket sales for this presentation have exceeded the capacity of our regular venue, we have moved the presentation to Pinestone Resort on County Road 21. Due to this change to a larger facility, tickets are still available. Also, please note that this presentation will be Thursday, June 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. and not our usual Wednesday night.

The Speakers Series is a member of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative. Admission is $15/person payable at the door or online at www.tellingourstories.company.site.

As seating is limited, pre-registration is highly recommended. To obtain tickets, contact Barrie Martin at 705-457-7557 or by email at barrieinthehighlands@gmail.com

Submitted

Importance of the arts

Xavier Massé, Dean of the Haliburton School of Art and Design will lead a discussion with the title "Who We ART: Why is Art Crucial to Mankind's Existence", at a Community Coffee House to be held on the evening of Tuesday, June 3 starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Schofield Room of the Haliburton Legion.

As a designer with expertise in a variety of media, an educator and international educational administrator with a focus on curriculum and program development in the collaborative fields of advertising, project management and interactive design, and now in his role with the Haliburton School of Art and Design, Xavier is sure to bring some interesting perspectives to the discussion of the topic of the arts, a subject dear to the hearts of creative spirits of so many in this community.

These Coffee House sessions always begin with a half hour of live music, this month provided by local singer/songwriter Thom Lambert, heard by many of you on Canoe FM and familiar to those who have attended the Haliburton Folk Society's Winter Camp, for which he has been Musical Director over the past 10 years.

Previous presentations under the overarching theme of this series of Coffee Houses of "Making Our Communities Better Places" have included Finding One's Own Power to be a source for change in our communities, The Power of One related to the environment, Creating Places of Support in the field of Youth Mental Health and Social Media, Supporting our Youth in Challenging Times, Addictions, Metabolic Flexibility, Mindful Nature Connections, and the Importance of Mental Health.

These gatherings are free of charge, with no need for advance registration, open to all, with light refreshments available, and are hosted by the Baha'is of Haliburton to provide a place for safe and healthy discussion on issues of interest in the support and building of community.

Submitted

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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9	8	7	1	2	6	3	4	5
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8	9	5	6	7	3	4	2	1
3	6	2	9	1	4	7	5	8
4	7	1	8	5	2	6	9	3

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
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Notice of Complete Application and Public Meeting
Concerning a Zoning By-Law Amendment

Take Notice that the Township of Minden Hills has received a complete application to amend the Township's Zoning By-law.

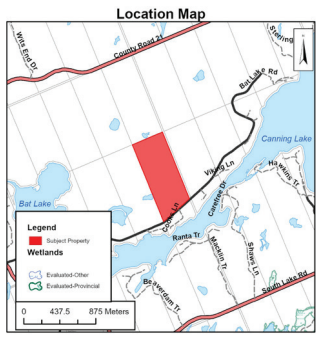
And Take Notice that the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a **Public Meeting**, as required under the Planning Act. The Public Meeting is an opportunity for Council to hear and consider comments related to the proposed amendment. Any member of the public may speak in favour, or opposition to, the proposed amendment during the Public Meeting.

Date and Location of Public Meeting

Date:	Thursday, June 12, 2025
Time:	9:00 AM
Location:	Hybrid Meeting (In-person and Electronic via Zoom)

The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to consider zoning by-law amendment application **PLZBA2025031** pursuant to Section 34 of the Planning Act. The zoning by-law amendment application for Public Meeting is detailed below:

Location Map



PLZBA2025031: Part Lot 10, Concession 1, Geographic Township of Minden, being 1473 Bat Lake Road (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect: The subject property is currently zoned 'Rural (RU)' and 'Hazard Lands (HZ)' and is located within the Rural and Environmental Protection designations of the Township's Official Plan. The zoning by-law is submitted to fulfill a condition of consent application H-051-24 and would serve to rezone portions of the property to 'Hazard Lands (HZ)' and incorporate site-specific provisions to protect the natural heritage features identified in an Environmental Impact Study prepared in relation to the consent applications.

To Watch: Members of the Public wishing to watch the meeting in person can do so by attending the Township Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden. Members of the Public wishing to watch the meeting virtually can do so by joining the Meeting Live Stream Link on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@townshipofmindenhills4716

To Participate in Person: Members of the public wishing to participate and make comment/speak at the Public Meeting must: pre-register by emailing admin@mindenhills.ca by Wednesday, June 11th, before 4:00 PM or by registering the morning of the meeting before 8:30 AM in the Township Council Chambers, 7 Milne Street, Minden.

To Participate via Zoom on the Web or by Telephone please email admin@mindenhills.ca by Wednesday, June 11th, before 4:00 PM to obtain login information.

If attending virtually, please log-on 30 minutes before the meeting. Once registered, participants will automatically be placed into a holding room and brought into the meeting as permitted by the Chair.

Written Submissions either in support of or opposition to the application must be received prior to the Public Meeting and can be submitted to adougherty@mindenhills.ca

Please Note: We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting the Township website at: https://www.mindenhills.ca/council/

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

Additional Information regarding the proposed Amendment is available to the public for inspection at the Municipal Office located at 7 Milne Street by appointment or on the Township website. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at adougherty@mindenhills.ca or by phone at 705-286-1260 (ext. 506).

Any Person may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If You Wish to Be Notified of the decision of the Township of Minden Hills in respect to the proposed zoning by-law amendment, you must submit a written request to the Township of Minden Hills. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at adougherty@mindenhills.ca

Accessibility: The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.

Privacy Disclosure: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

Amanda Dougherty
Manager of Planning
7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359
Minden, ON ,K0M 2K0

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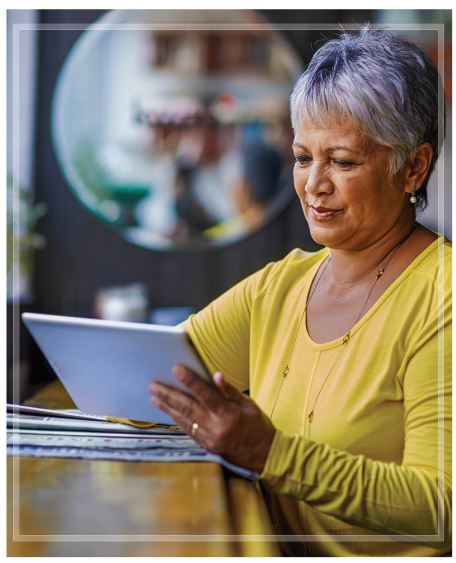

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650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

David Ross Heaven

Surrounded by family, Dave passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest at the age of 86 on May 20th.

Dave was the loving soul mate and husband of Janette Heaven for 62 years, and cherished father of Kym (Kevin) and Paul (Irene). As a "Poppy", he will be greatly missed by his granddaughters, Mikaela, Tanisha (Louca) and Abby (Josh) and grandsons Coleman (Anusha) and Logan. He will be fondly remembered by his brother Ted (Carol), sister Gwynneth (Bill) and the whole Heaven gang.

Dave will be remembered for the "Heaven Piano Company", a business he ran in the Hamilton area for 37 years. His true passion was philosophy, and he studied under Dr George Grant at McMaster University for many years, reading and writing in search of the truth. He was inspired by the Canadian wilderness. Along with his wife and dear friends John and Sharon Rudoph, he paddled much of Georgian Bay, as well as the north shore and parts of the south shore of Lake Superior. He also paddled many of the Ontario rivers and lakes, as well the Moise River in Labrador and the Hood River in the Arctic.

As we remember him, let us celebrate the fun, adventure, laughter and love he brought to our lives. May his search for the truth be fulfilled.

Cremation has already taken place. There will be a Celebration of Life on June 28th, 2pm-5pm at 2490 Horseshoe Lk Rd.

Donations may be made to Inter Pares Globalize Equality or the Minden Food Bank in Daves memory.

In Loving Memory of

Murray Wesley Cooper

Passed away peacefully at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre with his family at his side on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at the age of 76.

Passed away peacefully at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre with his family at his side on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at the age of 76.

Beloved husband and best friend of Zelda Cooper (nee Sisson). Dear father of Karen (James), Toni (Traviss) and Tina. Best friend of Russell Morrison. Loving poppa of Andrew (Jade), Dalton (Kimmy), Tianna (Justin), Cassie (Andrew), Shelby (Quintin), Daniel (Timber) and Alexandria (deceased). Great poppa of Sierra, Jordyn, Danika, Mackenzie, Wesley and Skylar. Son of the late Ray and Mae Cooper. Dear brother of Carolyn (Claude), Darlene (David) and Pam (Steve). Lifelong friend of Russell Sisson. Fondly remembered by his many nieces, nephews, his Hydro, Curling, Fishing and Hunting buddies.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the West Guilford Community Centre, 1061 Kennisis Lake Rd., West Guilford, Ontario K0M 2S0 on Saturday, June 14, 2025 from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the West Guilford Community Centre, Minden Curling Club, Haliburton Forest Wildlife Fishing Society (all by cheque only) or the Charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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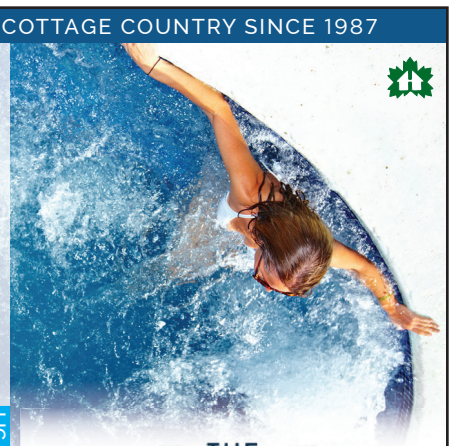

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Wednesday, May 29, 1985

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Taxes jump 10.8%

Ratepayers in the municipality of Anson, Hindon and Minden face a 10.8% increase in property taxes in 1985 due in large part to a significant hike in the education levy.

The 1985 budget of $2,720,749 approved by council at a meeting on Thursday includes municipal expenditures of $1,612,990, an education levy of $1,061,209 and payments to the County of Haliburton of $151,522.

The municipal levy has increased by only 3.4% due in part to the $105,000 surplus from last year.

The County levy has shown only a slight increase of 0.6%.

The education levy announced by the Haliburton County Board of Education last month has had a major impact on the overall tax increase. The levy increased by $167,151 to boost the overall tax increase to just under 11%.

In 1985 overall expenditures including county, education and municipal spending, are expected to drop by $9,404 from last year. Total municipal expenditures are also expected to drop slightly.

While many of the separate expenditures by the municipality will remain much the same as last year, there are some major differences.

Administrative costs are expected to drop from $156,644 to $146,070. Similarly funds spent on property will be down from $51,621 to $38,161.

The most significant decrease in expenditures is the amount spent on special programs that are funded mainly by senior levels of government. In 1984 $224,528 was spent on the programs. This year only $48,152 has been allocated.

The municipality will be paying more attention to road construction this year. $162,500 has been earmarked for road construction in 1985, an increase of $23,781 over last year's actual expenditures.

The municipality will also be spending more on planning and development. Spending will increase from $54,872 to $74,570.

Parks and community celebrations will benefit even more from this year's budget. Allocations will nearly double from $78,077 in 1984 to $131,335.

$8000 has been set aside for the municipal election in November, an expense that the municipality has not been able to consider since 1981.

On the revenue side the municipality expects to collect $1,819,584 in taxes in 1985, an increase of $242,027 over last year.

While unconditional grants are expected to increase by $11,616 to $195,055, specific grants are expected to drop sharply from the 1984 figure of $715,384 to $480,740.

Budget spurs surplus debate

The 1985 municipal budget was passed unanimously at the meeting of council on Thursday but not before council members engaged in a spirited debate on the implementation of the 1984 surplus.

Acting Deputy Reeve Gary Kenney began the discussion by commending Acting Reeve, Ed Pergolas and Clerk-Treasurer Bev Millar for their work in preparing "the most clearly stated budget we have seen." Kenney added that although he would have preferred to see a lower increase in the education levy, "The bottom line is that this is a good budget."

Kenney said he did have concerns however since, "There is too much leeway in interpreting the budget in some areas." "We will need to consider what to do with the surplus." He suggested that council should set some priorities in deciding how best to allocate the funds.

Noting that $30,000 of the 1984 surplus has already been allocated to road repairs, as a result of a resolution passed at the last council meeting, Kenney outlined his priorities for the remaining $75,000.

(more on page 3)

Saxophonist Heidi Tashlin concentrates during a performance of the HHSS Stage Band Thursday at Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden. The award winning musical ensemble made a number of public appearances in the past week delighting audiences wherever they appeared. For details of the annual Spring Concert, see page 9.

New manager for Chamber

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce has a new manager. Shawn Hagerman, chairman of the hiring committee, announced last week that Mrs. Shirley Rapson will be taking over the post.

Mrs. Rapson, who is a native of West Guilford, will be assuming the Chamber duties June 1. She is the daughter of Mrs. Elva Cooper and the late Stanley Cooper. Along with her husband, Ken, she is part owner, with her brothers Earl and Sid Cooper, of the Lakeside Golf Course at West Guilford.

She will be taking over the post which has been vacant for several months following the resignation of Emily Skinner. She stepped down in March due to ill health.

Mrs. Rapson is returning to the Highlands from Timmins where she owned and managed an insurance agency. According to the press release issued by the Chamber, the couple are eagerly looking forward to taking up residence in this area.

Voters want stability: Eakins

John Eakins is looking forward, cautiously, to the era of stable government which he expects to evolve after his party takes its seat on the government side of the provincial legislature. The Victoria-Haliburton MPP made his remarks Tuesday afternoon in an interview with The Times.

"Stability is an important factor at this time," the MPP said. "Most people I talk to do not want another election. With the leadership races at both the federal and provincial levels and the elections at the two levels, people want a period of stable government."

Eakins said he felt his party, with the help of the NDP, could provide that stability in Ontario. However, he also sounded a note of caution by pointing out that even though the Liberals and NDP have formed an alliance which could command a majority in the Legislature, the party is not guaranteed it will get the chance.

He noted that following a vote of confidence in the Legislature, the actions of the Lieutenant Governor would be crucial. While most observers are suggesting the Queen's representative would ask the Liberals, with the help of the NDP to form the next government in the province, he could also call for a general election. While this possibility appears distant, Eakins has not discounted it completely.

The Victoria-Haliburton MPP said he expected if the Liberals do lead the next provincial government, new legislation would be enacted which would benefit all parts of the province. He said he could not identify any particular legislation which would have a dramatic impact on this riding, but suggested the area would be a beneficiary as would other sectors of the province.

Eakins is one of the more

(more on page 3)

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Precious puddles: the importance of vernal pools

RICK WHITEKER

Guest Columnist

When spring finally allows our wonderful hiking trails to be passable, watch for vernal pools, those seasonal forest temporary wetlands that provide an oasis for breeding amphibians and invertebrates. Unlike the post rain splash pads of our childhood, vernal pools will last from 3 weeks to 3 months and are an oasis in the forest, a biodiversity hotspot and essential for survival for many water-dependent forest critters.

Vernal pools form in landscape depressions from melted snow and spring rains. With no inflow or outflow from a stream or creek, they are unique and isolated wetlands with a short lifespan. Their transient nature makes them both ideal and problematic for breeding frogs and salamanders. Usually dry by mid to late summer, these pools provide a limited window of time for eggs to hatch and metamorphosize. While using temporary wetlands for breeding might be considered a questionable strategy, these short-lived wetlands cannot support fish, a major predator of amphibian eggs and larva.

In Ontario, species like the wood frog, chorus frog, mole salamander and two endangered species, the Jefferson salamander and the small-mouthed salamander, depend on vernal pools for their survival. In Haliburton County, the spotted salamander and the blue spotted salamander amongst others are regular vernal pool breeders.

Vulnerable to disturbance, forestry operations can open the canopy enough to potentially increase the rate of evaporation. A hot, dry spring can shorten the lifespan of these pools, putting the development of the tiny embryos on the clock. Two to three months is needed for some salamander larva to change from a gill breathing aquatic organism to a lung breathing terrestrial species.

While wood frogs, chorus frogs and spring peepers announce their amorous intentions through a cacophony of calls, behind the scenes, salamanders are going about their business quietly. Most salamanders are mute; they use chemical pheromone secretions to entice prospective partners. For some species, courtship also includes elaborate tail wagging and some basic dance moves to seal the deal with potential mates.

Most species of salamander fertilize their eggs internally. The male deposits small jelly encapsulated sperm packets on the ground. These cone-shaped mounds called spermatophores are about one centimeter high, like tiny, white-tipped stalagmites. The male leads the receptive female to the location of these mounds where she uptakes them into her cloaca. Eggs are laid 2-3 days later, on plant stems or twigs in a nearby vernal pool.

With exceptions, egg identification of different amphibians includes the following features: American toad eggs are laid in strands while frog eggs have a black embryo surrounded by a clear membrane and are laid stuck together into an egg mass. The wood frog is a regular vernal pool breeder and lays egg masses that appear on the water surface looking like a pile of bubble-like marbles. Salamander eggs look like frog eggs usually with less embryos and an additional protective gel around them which holds the egg mass together in a gelatin-like clump. Depending on the species,

The spotted salamander is a common user of vernal pools for breeding in Haliburton County. /photo by Shelley Hunt

amphibian eggs can be found in permanent wetlands or vernal pools.

Vernal pools also play host to a range of invertebrates. Unique to these ephemeral pools is a small crustacean called the fairy shrimp. Unlike the magical winged fairy, they do not flit amongst the spring wildflowers but they swim upside down in water. Instead of graceful, lacy wings, they have nine pairs of legs that propel them through the cold spring waters of vernal pools. Semi-transparent and 1-2 centimeters long, they are orange to pink in colour.

Fairy shrimp lay two types of eggs: one hatches in the spring and the other lays dormant on the bottom of the pool even after the pool dries up. This hardy cyst can survive until the following spring when the pool fills again and they can hatch. Mosquito larvae also make vernal pools home, providing a valuable food source for young salamanders and frogs.

Adult and recently metamorphosed amphibians will leave the vernal pool and head into the surrounding landscape. Although they depend on seasonal pools to reproduce and for their young to grow, adults spend the summer, fall, and winter in the upland forests nearby where they find food, shelter, and overwintering sites.

On any given rainy spring night, salamanders will migrate to breed, commonly to the same vernal pool where they were born. This instinctual drive puts salamanders at risk when developments like roads lie between their ancestral pool and the surrounding forest. This is an issue for the endangered Jefferson salamander in the City of Burlington. Lying between their forested hibernation sites and the pool of their birth, King Road is temporarily closed in March to help protect the Jefferson salamander during their spring migration. A good news story when people come together in the name of wildlife conservation!

Vernal pools support a range of diverse life. Some species rely on these pools for survival and others, like the spring peeper, American toad and the wood turtle, use them as a place to forage or to find shelter. Here today, gone tomorrow, these seasonal pools need to be protected to support the richness of our forest biodiversity.

Photo Credits- see photo title

Suggested caption for both- The spotted salamander is a regular breeder in vernal pools in Haliburton County.

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